OUR ESSENTIAL OBLIGSTION.

Intro. A.

The inaugural precedent established by Washington and followed by all our presidents.

1. Washington, standing ready to ~~take the oath of office~~ be inaugurated President of the U.S., asked for a Bible and, resting his right hand upon its sacred page, took his oath of office and then kissed the Hole Book upon which he had been obligated. The chapter and verse kissed was Gen.47:24 "His bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob."
2. Ever since, Washington's example has been followed; the clerk of the supreme court opens the Bible at random, a record is made of the verse kissed and the book thus used is presented to the wife of the President.
3. The verse kissed by Roosevelt was Jas.1:22 "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only".
   Wilson kkssed Ps.119:46 "I will speak of thy testimonies before kings and will not be ashamed."

B. Our text- Harding's inaugural verse~~s~~ Micah 6:8 And what does the Lord ~~God~~ require of thee, o man, but to do justice, and love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God?"

To this verse Pres. Harding alluded in closing his inaugural address, speaking as follows: "I have taken the solemn oath of office on that passage of Holy Writ wherein it is asked: 'What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justice, and love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God?' This I plight to God and country."

Let us turn to a consideration of the prophet's words and try to discover therein ought of vital concern to us all.

I. The scriptural setting of the text.

1. The prophets of old were to Israel what our statesmen have been to our country- the leaders and saviors of the people. Roosevelt in the time of the prophets would have been one of them, and we woupd be reading out of the book of Roosevelt, the prophet of righteousness.

2.Micah, 8th cent.B.C. contemporary with Isaiah.

3. Just before the fall of Samaria- judges corrupt, leaders grafters and profiteers, common people heavily taxed and kept down, gov't weakened by entangling alliances, religion mechanical and formal, the few faithful ascetic and ecstatic emotional.

4.Micah gives his message as tho it were a case in court.

God, represented by proplet, is the plaintif

The people are the defendant.

The charge. vs. 3-5

The ~~reply~~. plea vs.6-7

God's reply. v.8.

5.Points to be well taken.

1. The prophet appeals to reason.

2.The test of a man's religion is not the manner of his worship but the manner of his living.

Are you just in all your actions?

Do you sincerely love your fellow men, sufficiently to be merciful and kind to them?

Do you walk humbly with God? obey Him according to His will?

In Proverbs Wisdom personified
X brings forth Religion in
all the strength & beauty of reason
arguments with destroys parables
& teachings to discredit the

3. God is represented as our Redeemer, Deliverer, Regenerator, Savior.

We are repsented as needing to be saved and finding it necessary necessary to go to God for the repair of our spirits and nature.

We can repair everything e make- ours a wonderful age of invention and discovery. We can repair broken houses, autos, machines and mechanism of all kinds, even broken bones and other parts of the body. But when it comes to our broken spirits, we must go to God who made them- He alone can repair them, and make them whole again.

When the conscience is seared, the will demoralized, and the imagination polluted, man is helpless; but God can recreate a right spirit in broken man.

4. This text is the sublime climax of the O.T., the highest standard of valuation ever placed upon man. It is only equalled by Christ's own utterances- his summary of the law, his Golden Rule, and his gracious invitation, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, etc.

II. How simple does the text make religion! And right living!

1. What a relief from our complex doctrines of belief and our conflicting creeds! What a relief from our systems and codes of laws made up of contradictory precedents and strangled with technicalities! What a relief from our elaborate and formal systems of worship! What a relief from our thotless customs and usages that keep life a confusion and chaos!

2. How glad we ought to be to have such a simple rule to follow; such a single principle to practice, such a lucid definition of religion as even a child can understand! And Jesus taught the same understanding of life and religion as did the prophet Micah!

III. But alas! how hard it is to ~~practice~~ live this simple religion, to practice this single principle of right living, to habitually maintain one's conduct up to its high standard!

1. Here is where we fail as Xns, as lodge members, as office holders and citizens, as individuals vocationally educated.

2. We make heavy demands upon God ahd quickly blame Him when things go wrong; but we are not so particular about carrying out our part of the contract. We break our obligations and shirk our duties but keep on going to God for dividends.

3. We should learn how to treat God from our experience with nature. Our absolute dependence upon nature makes us study her ways, discover her laws and conform to them in order to utilize her powers for our good. The blessings of the sciences have been realized only in this way.

Why not realize our dependence upon God for our moral and spiritual blessings, study Him and discover His laws for right living; then seek to apply them just as scientifically and whole-heartedly as we do nature's laws?

4. We need to bury the theological Christ and resurrect Christ the teacher of Life and the exemplifier of God.

We need to bury our supreme desire to get-heaven and immortality; and resurrect as our supreme desire, make ourselves fit for heaven and immortality right here and now.